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November 21, 2014

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Cynthia A. Harding, M.P.H.
Interim Director

SUBJECT: **ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION CAUSED BY HIGH-POWER
TRANSMISSION LINES IN THE SANTA CLARITA AREA**

At the October 28, 2014 meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Dr. Gene Dorio provided public comment about health concerns and Electromagnetic Frequency (EMF) radiation associated with power lines. The Department of Public Health (DPH) was instructed to report back to the Board on these issues.

DPH does not perform measurements of EMF radiation from power lines, nor does it research the issue of associated health risks from exposure to EMF. Research on this subject is ongoing at the federal and state levels; however, current scientific data reviewed by the Food and Drug Administration, the World Health Organization, and the American Cancer Society do not suggest a relationship between EMF exposure and human diseases such as cancer (see Attachment for more information).

Regarding field measurements of EMF from power lines, Dr. Dorio noted during his public comments that his own measurements were not scientific. Southern California Edison (SCE) operates the EMF Education Energy Group, which does perform such measurements and can provide educational information on the subject. Inquiries regarding EMF radiation and power lines can be directed to SCE at 6090 N. Irwindale Avenue, Irwindale, CA 91702, 1-(800)-200-4723, EMFRegistrations@sce.com. The SCE EMF Website provides additional information and resources at <http://www.SCE.com/EMF>.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please let me know.

CAH:cr
PH: 1410:012

Attachment

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

Attachment

ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION CAUSED BY HIGH-POWER TRANSMISSION LINES IN THE SANTA CLARITA AREA

According to the American Cancer Society, "No mechanism by which ELF-EMFs could cause cancer has been identified. Some scientists have speculated that ELF-EMFs could cause cancer through other mechanisms, such as by reducing levels of the hormone melatonin. (There is some evidence that melatonin may suppress the development of certain tumors.) However, studies of animals exposed to ELF-EMFs have not provided any indications that ELF-EMF exposure is associated with cancer ... Although a study in 1979 pointed to a possible association between living near electric power lines and childhood leukemia (5), more recent studies have had mixed findings. Currently, researchers conclude that there is little evidence that exposure to ELF-EMFs from power lines causes leukemia, brain tumors, or any other cancers in children."
[<http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/Risk/magnetic-fields>]

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Attachment

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